ROBERTA COLDREN DYER
1411 Gregory Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

AFTER DEATH WHAT? THIS PAPER TELLS YOU

SPIRITUALISM'S PICTORIAL JOURNAL

The Psychic Observer

TRUTH

TRUTH FOR AUTHORITY NOT AUTHORITY FOR TRUTH

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READING A BOOK 3,000 MILES AWAY

Can You Explain How It Was Done? Here Are the Facts

ANOTHER STARTLING EXPERIENCE

By
BROWN LANDONE

Some time ago, I studied and copied exact data from a book 3,000 miles away!

I ask YOU to decide how it was done.

These are the facts: I had been interested in the subject of perfect proportions of the human body for 38 years—for often in studying a subject leading up to new knowledge, one spends years at it.

I had studied 153 systems, conceived and taught since the time of *Michalangelo;* and I had already made my discovery of the *Teleois* of proportions — which I found perfect in scores of beautiful temples; in the distances of the solar system, and even in designs inside of snowflakes.

Important Data Missing

I had also studied summaries of 161,000 measurements of the human body—42,000 of *Giovanni* of *Padua;* 40,000 of *Dr. Dudley Sargent* of Harvard; and most of the 100,000 measurements taken of our doughboys of the *First World War.* I had also studied measurements of the standard skeletons of *Cambridge* and *Oxford Universities.*

But I had NO reliable data of measurements of children! I did not know that any such measurement had been made, until a sculptor friend told me of a book he had once seen. It was by a German author, and contained both illustrations and data of the bodies of children, from one to sixteen years of age.

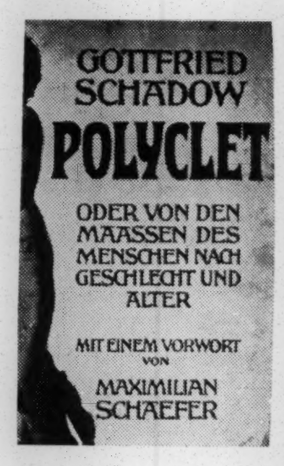
The book was called *Polyclet;* the author was *Gottfried Schadow;* and it was published by *Von Ernst Wasmuth* in Berlin. Probably there were copies of the book in America, but I could not find any, either privately owned or in libraries. So I had a book dealer in New York City; *order a copy from Berlin; and was told it would take from three to four weeks to secure it.*

The "Teleois Measurements"

A few days later, as I was finishing my averages of measurements of the adult human body so they could be tabulated on a few pages, I found myself wishing with all my heart, for that copy of Schadow's book, so I could completely finish the work.

I was then at my study in Newton in New Jersey; and to understand more clearly what follows, I tell you of the two floors, and the broad main stairway and the small private stair. On the lower floor, beneath my study, were the offices of my stenographers and helpers. *And there was a little private stair on the east side of my study, leading down to the typists' office on the lower floor.*

IT APPEARED . . .



THEN DISAPPEARED!

All my assistants left the offices at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. After they had gone—on this particular day in April 1929—I had continued working at my desk on summaries of the *Teleois* measurements of the human body.

. . . Then It Happened!

About 10 o'clock in the evening, I went to my restroom, adjoining the study, to lie down for an hour. One of my last thoughts before I went to sleep, was — *"I wish I could finish up the data tonight! I don't like to wait three weeks for Schadow's book to arrive."*

I awoke in about an hour, and went again to my study. *AND ON MY DESK, I saw a paper board covered book, very large,* 13 *inches wide,* 19 *inches long; and I wondered who had placed it there.*

At first, I was not interested for almost one-half of the cover was *an illustration of a rather fat nude woman;* but then my eye caught the word POLYCLET in black letters, and I saw the word *Schadow*—the author's name.

Just What I Wanted

THERE it was, ON MY DESK; and remember, I had not gone to my restroom until 10 o'clock in the evening; and everyone in the building—all the office workers—had left five hours before at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

So I thought — well, probably the book came in the last mail, and someone had told my colored house man to bring it up. So I gave no more thought to how it got there, but *opened the book and went to work.*

I noticed several strange facts about it. The printed pages were in German, but many measurements were in French. Ages of some children were designated by *ans* which is the French word for year; others by *yahr* the German word for year.

But anyway, I found tables of just the measurements I wanted—of children one year, two years old, three years, and of each year up to the seventeenth. Some measurements were in *metric* units as used by the French, others in *zoll's* as used by Germans.

And Then I Copied It

I worked all night copying da'a, averaging figures — hundreds of them—measurements of the body, head, arms, legs, torso. It was exacting work; I did not wish to make any mistakes, for all my other data was exact to 1/10,000 of an inch. Finally I closed the book, for I had finished copying the data I needed to complete my summary of more than 38 years work.

I glanced at the clock, it was about 6 o'clock in the morning, so I left the book and the pencilled data on my desk; went to bed, and slept for three hours. I came back to my desk at 9 o'clock that morning.

Then I Was Puzzled

I did NOT notice Schadow's book on my desk or anywhere about my study that morning. But I did not think much about it, because every morning before I awoke, my colored man cleared my desk of work I had left, and took it downstairs to be typed during the morning and with the matter of the summary of the Teleois proportions off my mind, I plunged into work preparing for the school I was to hold that summer.

Then exactly three weeks later at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, one of my helpers came running up the private stairs, saying as he came into my study—*"The book from Germany HAS COME!"*

Certainly I was puzzled, as *he laid before me, what seemed to be the very book I HAD already used three weeks previously!*

No One Had Seen It

"Did you order TWO copies," I asked.

Surprised, he answered—*"No, only one; and it has just come."*

"But I had that book three weeks ago; didn't you bring it up and leave it on my desk?"

"I've never brought this book to your desk before. I've never even seen it before."

"Then there must be another one around here someplace; I used it all one night."

We searched my study, but no trace of the book could be found; and it was not a book that could be easily lost for it was 19 inches long! My colored houseman was questioned. He had never seen such a book. No one had!

This copy of Polyclet had just arrived from Germany; and yet I HAD used that book three weeks BEFORE IT ARRIVED!

What Is Your Conclusion?

Then I checked the data which I had taken from the book of three weeks before, and *I found that every item was exactly like that of the book that had just arrived!*

And now, reader of faith and reader of doubts, *what is YOUR conclusion?*

Was it effected by what is called *materialization?*

OR was it done by some *entity* conveying the sight of the pages to me—without my being aware of the entity?

OR was it done, by what psychic researchers call *psychic perception* at a distance?

OR by what some would call *objective clairvoyance* of my own mind?

OR by what Dr. Rhine of Duke University calls *extra-sense perception?*

OR by *expanded consciousness* of the infinity of my soul?

OR, by what Christian Scientists might call *one-ness with knowledge of the Infinite,* particularized in this special case?

OR by telepathy, such that my

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)

College Professor To Conduct Course in Psychic Research

GARDNER MURPHY'S CLASS OPENS FEB. 8

Students selected must be willing to engage in extensive reading and study in order to qualify.

By
Psychic Observer Reporter

To meet the special needs of a small group of students in psychology, a seminar course in *psychical research* will be offered at the *New School for Social Research,* 66 West 12th Street, New York City, during the Spring Term, beginning *February 8th,* and meeting each Thursday from 8:30 to 10:10 P. M.

This course, we learn, is similar to the course offered at Harvard University in the summer of 1942 under the title *"Psychical Research from William James to the Present."* The instructor, *Gardner Murphy,* is a Vice-President of the *American Society for Psychical Research,* and a Professor at the College of the City of New York.

Richard Hodgson Fellowship

Professor Murphy has been interested in psychical investigations for some twenty-five years, having held the Richard Hodgson Fellowship at Harvard from 1922 to 1925, and having sat with many mediums and conducted many experiments while holding academic positions.

While some research projects may be carried out by members of the New School class under the instructor's direction, the main purpose of the course is to acquaint students of psychology with the large research literature which has accumulated in England and in this country.

You MUST Study!

From the many tens of thousands of pages of such material, about a hundred pages a week will be covered by members of the class, this material being discussed and interpreted in the class meetings. No one *unwilling* to do this intensive reading will be admitted to the course, the instructor feeling that sheer *"talk"* without knowledge of research findings is of no value.

The course begins with the older studies of *apparitions, telepathy,* and the like, as gathered by *Gurney, Myers,* and *Podmore* and published over half a century ago in *"Phantasms of the Living."* More recent cases of apparitions and allied phenomena will be added whenever necessary to show new principles.

Gardner MURPHY

The study of trance mediumship will be illustrated from the many published studies of *Leonore Piper's* work in this country and in England, and by a detailed consideration of the published work of *Gladys Osborne Leonard* in England since the time of the First World War.

From the *typical* mediumistic material, a long digression will be made to those *special* mediumistic phenomena known as *"cross correspondences,"* in which the various parts of the message are given to various sensitives so that only by putting the parts together is the message deciphered.

Experiments Contemplated

Book tests and proxy sittings are also emphasized as making up some of our best survival evidence in recent years.

Experimental work making use of *"ordinary"* people, people laying no claim to special psychical gifts, is also considered at some length. The work of the English group of investigators, *Whately Carington, S. G. Soal,* and *Mrs. Goldney,* in particular, is compared with the American work such as that done by *Dr. Joseph Banks Rhine* at Duke University.

Throughout the course emphasis is upon the *mental phenomena,* the instructor feeling himself inadequately trained in the study of *physical phenomena.*

Dr. Joseph Banks Rhine

Perhaps this outline of the course will make clear that its purpose is to give students of psychology some familiarity with the nature of psychic phenomena. There is nothing in common between this purpose and public lectures on psychic phenomena, which naturally serve a very different need.

The time seems to be coming when professional psychologists will make themselves fully familiar with the phenomena of psychical research, and will help to probe into their meaning.

The steps recently taken by Dr. Rhine have served a valuable purpose in this direction, and it is to be hoped that other institutions will, in time, follow the lead set by the New School in giving psychical phenomena a serious place in college studies.

Modern Developments In Psychic Research

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

HONORABLE GEORGE GORDON BATTLE

AT A PUBLIC MEETING OF

PSYCHISTS, INC., 313 WEST 57th STREET, NEW YORK CITY

"To study these great psychic truths profoundly and to reason about them fearlessly is perhaps our greatest mental achievement."

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Members of Psychists, Inc., Guests and other Friends:

It is a real pleasure for me to address this meeting here at our *Psychists home.* I appreciate sincerely the compliment and honor of being asked to do so. I am doubly gratified to speak in this most convenient and appropriate meeting place furnished for us largely through the generosity and public spirit of *Mr. R. Laurence Parish* and *Mr. John Myers.*

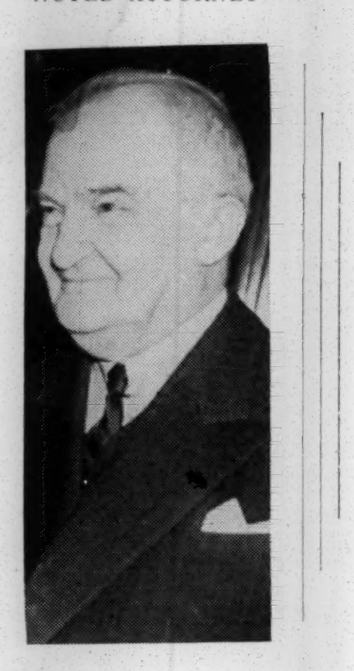
The subject under discussion this evening — *Modern Developments in Psychical Research*—is most interesting and most important. It will, I think, be well to define at the outset just what we mean by *Psychical Research.*

Organized Investigation

If we define our terms in advance we have a better chance of knowing what we are talking about. Unless this is done the speaker upon a controversial subject is apt to find himself in the position of the French advocate who when he was asked by the judge to state the facts in the case replied, *"There are no facts in this case, your honor, but I am filled with conflicting emotions."*

Psychical Research has been defined as an organized investigation of all the various phenomena supposed to evidence supernormal faculties in human personality, supernormal being defined as lying outside the scope of generally

NOTED ATTORNEY



Psychic Observer

HONORABLE GEORGE GORDON BATTLE, 30 Broadway, New York City; one of the most distinguished District Attorneys of New York County; also an outstanding Corporation Lawyer. He is a Director of Psychists, Inc. . . a corporation founded for the propagation of Psychic Science and Spiritual Philosophy.

recognized scientific laws.

In other words, Psychical Research consists in the investigation and study of those things which we do not perceive in the manner normally used by human beings. We have on the one hand a field of objects and events which we perceive and understand through our senses of sight, hearing, touch and smell as well as in the other methods which we ordinarily employ.

E.S.P. Methods

This is, generally speaking, the objective field, and its contents are investigated and studied by us according to strictly scientific methods.

Then there is the other field which we perceive not by our usual senses but by "*extra-sensory*" methods. It is largely a subjective field including the phenomena of the mind and of the spirit. It is to analyze and understand the contents of this field that the methods of *Psychical Research* are used.

Here are collected those phenomena which we find it difficult to understand and even more difficult to describe. We find here those subjects which we deal with in the study and application of religion—in worshipping and following the mandates of a Divine Power. We shall not discuss this religious aspect of our problem. There is more than enough to occupy our attention in the other phases of this great subject.

Horatio's Philosophy

These phenomena, of which we are more or less dimly aware through supernormal channels, are vast in their extent and indefinite in their character. The amazing mind of *Shakespeare* has given what seems to me the best description of this group of phenomena.

As Hamlet said to his friend, *"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."*

In the category of these things that are undreamt of in the philosophy of the ordinary man there may be mentioned *Spiritualism, telepathy, clairvoyance, spirit photography, automatic writing, trance levitation, ectoplasm* and *poltergeist* activities.

To this list there have been and will be constant additions and sometimes a subtraction. For example, hypnotism has in recent years been removed from the psychical area into the realm of science.

Object of Psychists, Inc.

It is the object of our organization "*Psychists, Inc.*" to investigate and study these subjects and others akin to them in our work of Psychical Research.

And for this enterprise there has been no time in world history so appropriate as the present. To begin with, the strictly material theory and philosophy of life is proving most unsatisfactory and highly dangerous. The sordid motives and the selfish passions that arise from this materialistic conception of the universe have come near wrecking the world in these recent years; and the danger has not yet passed.

We had fondly dreamed that humanity was rising to higher planes of altruism than ever before when suddenly the German and the Japanese governments in an orgy of hate and bigotry and intolerance have plunged humanity into the depths darker and more fearful than were ever known even in the Dark Ages.

Sir Isaac Newton

There are many of us who believe that the present-day dire conditions have arisen largely from the pre-occupation of men with material rather than spiritual ideals and aspirations in the study and exercise of the spiritual faculties which carry man always upward, there lies the hope of the future.

Then, too, we have found to our amazement and our discomfiture that we cannot grasp nor understand this wonderful universe solely by study of its material side. We had thought that through the processes of science we had mastered the laws of space and time. We had believed that *Sir Isaac Newton* beginning with his experiment of the apple had solved the law of gravity holding in place this revolving universe of suns and moons and stars and planets.

We were confident that a straight line was the shortest distance between two points. We believed that we had established that space was limited and that time was unending. And then to rebuke our self-satisfaction and to confuse our intellects there came *Einstein* and his followers with their strange theories of relativity.

Reason Does Not Suffice

Against our will we have been compelled to yield our assent to this novel and to most of us incomprehensible philosophy. It seems by the application of the higher mathematics to natural facts and by other occult processes it has been established that space does not stretch out in every direction but is curved and limited; that the day will come when the eons of time shall cease to roll on and shall be succeeded by some new condition which we cannot foresee.

We do know this, that our present reasoning based on material things and principles does not suffice to explain these new and astounding propositions. It is in the field of supernormal activities that we must look for a solution to this dread problem.

In the interests of knowledge, therefore, as well as of ethics, we must boldly embark upon this largely uncharted sea of Psychical Research.

Medium's Strange Powers

An increasing number of the wisest men and women are realizing these truths and are engaging in this investigation and in this study. And it is to some of the modern developments or perhaps, let us more accurately say, tendencies of this psychical research that I shall call your attention very briefly.

Perhaps the most dramatic and compelling aspect of this study is to be found under the head of *Spiritualism.* This has been defined as the belief that human identity is retained after death and may communicate with the living through the agency of a medium or a psychic.

These mediums have the strange power of transmitting to the living messages from those who occupy the other world—SPIRITS.

Basis of Telepathy

They are endowed apparently with the gift to lift the curtain that divides the material from the spiritual world and to allow the occupants of the latter territory to communicate with those of the former. These so-called spirits have many and different forms. Sometimes they are or appear to be permanent denizens of their spirit clime and take the form of Indians or Egyptians or of some other exotic shape.

Then there are other spirits who are but recently in their new home, who have been themselves human beings and who have through the portals of death passed into the world which they now occupy.

These manifestations occur in various forms. They are, for example, the spirit photographs which we have seen which Mr. Myers so wonderfully produced. Then there is the automatic writing in which the medium acts as the unthinking amanuensis of the spirit; and there are many other like methods of communication between these two separate spheres of existence.

These mediums can, again in the language of Shakespeare, "*call spirits from the vastly deep.*" To see and to hear them in their activity is a most enthralling and tremendous experience.

Study of Apparitions

Then there is the subject of telepathy, a word recently devised by *F. W. H. Myers "to indicate the communication of impressions from one (living) mind to another without recourse to physical (sensory) channels."*

In other words, telepathy is the reading by one human being of the mind and thoughts of another. It has been sought to explain many of the messages of the mediums by claiming that they are telepathic in their character; that the medium could read the mind of his hearer and could control and adapt his message accordingly.

Doubtless there has been some basis for this claim, but on the other hand there are many spiritual communications which are susceptible of no such explanations.

Another subject of psychical research is the investigation and the study of apparitions and of all kinds of supernatural appearances.

Psychokenitic Effect

And then there is also the most important subject of *spiritual healing* by which the powers of the mind are applied to the curing of the ills of the body. There is, of course, the wellknown and obvious fact that a healthy mind tends to make and keep a healthy body.

But quite apart and beyond, there is a far greater power to cure bodily disease by one form or another of spiritual force. And without attempting at all to exhaust this category, I shall mention in conclusion a comparatively new and vast field in this realm of research.

Here are found instances of the control of mind over matter in many and in most amazing ways. There is no comprehensive name for this branch of psychical research. Sometimes it is called extra-sensory perception, and it includes what is known as the psychokinetic effect, and other like topics.

The teachers and the leaders in psychical research are deeply engaged in the investigation and the study of these strange phenomena.

As a striking illustration we can

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

SPIRITUALIST SANCTUARY AT QUEEN'S VILLAGE

This is a picture of the rostrum of Spiritualist church, located on Long Island, in the vicinity of metropolitan New York. It is the Spiritual Church of Magdalena, 212-76 Whitehall Terrace (near 214th St.), under the supervision of J. Izor Difford.

Rev. Marion Miller, the Spiritualist minister for the church, conducts services 8 P. M. every Wednesday and Sunday; 2 P. M. every Monday and Thursday. Rev. Miller is a clairvoyant and direct-voice medium.

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American Humorist and the Supernormal

MARK TWAIN'S VIEWS ON "DEATH" AND THE "AFTER-LIFE"

By
F. C. WENTWORTH

Mark Twain's interest in the supernormal was supplemented by the personal experiences mentioned in a number of his books, which draw attention to the marked *psychic nature* of his character. In common with other famous writers, he confessed to experiencing a sense of guidance whilst producing some of his more popular work, although he wrote little about the operation of this faculty during his everyday life.

In a detailed review of the life of this great American, *Albert Bigelow Paine* records incidents in which this psychic faculty influenced him in his ordinary activity. When he was only six years of age he had a strange presentiment that a young sister, at the time lying ill, would pass away.

Whilst walking in his sleep one night he was observed to approach the bed where the girl was lying and pluck nervously at the coverlet. The next day the girl reproduced the plucking movements made by her brother, and died soon afterwards.

Steamboat Explosion

All Mark Twain's early experiences of this nature seemed to be connected with the death of some relative or acquaintance. He was forewarned of the passing, as in the event of the death of his brother, Henry, when he had a vivid dream.

He saw Henry's body lying in a metal coffin in the sitting-room of his home, the casket being supported on two chairs. On his breast lay a bunch of white flowers, with a crimson bloom in the center. So vivid was the dream that when he awoke in the morning he thought it real.

Shortly afterwards Henry was fatally injured in an explosion on a Mississippi steamboat. Paine's account of the corroboration of Mark Twain's dream makes touching reading:

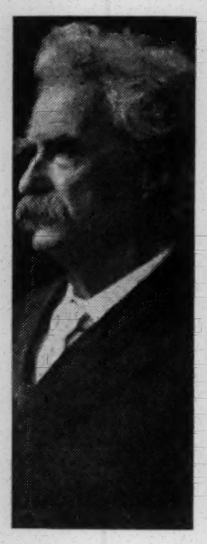
"He saw the boy taken to the room, then the long strain of grief, the days and nights without sleep, the ghastly realization of the end overcame him. A citizen of Memphis took him away in a kind of daze and put him to bed. It was many hours before he awoke; when he did he dressed and went to where Henry lay.

Wooden Coffins

"The coffins provided for the dead in the disaster were of unpainted wood, but the youth and striking appearance of Henry had aroused a special interest. The ladies of Memphis collected sixty dollars and bought for him a *metallic casket.* Mark Twain, entering, saw his brother lying exactly as he had seen him in the dream, lacking only the bouquet of white flowers with the crimson center—a detail made complete while he stood there, for at that moment an elderly lady came in with a large bouquet, and in the center of it was a single red rose."

Then there was the incident in

"IF I AM APPOINTED"



Psychic Observer

SAMUEL CLEMENS (Mark Twain) drifted into journalism after the American Civil War, first attracting attention as a humorist by his book, "Innocents Abroad," the result of a trip to Europe. Subsequent publications included "Tom Sawyer," "A Tramp Abroad," "Huckleberry Finn," etc.—works which established his reputation as America's leading humorist.

the billiard-room, related by Albert Paine, who was with Mark Twain at the time. He relates the story as follows:

"Mark Twain and I began preparing for the customary game. We were playing with four balls, two white and two red. I began by placing the red balls on the table, and then went round looking in the pockets for the two white cue-balls. When I had made the round of the table I found but one white ball. I thought I must have overlooked the other, and then made the round again.

Extra-ordinary Levitation

"Then I said, 'There is one white ball missing,' Mark Twain, to satisfy himself, also made the round of the pockets. He even felt in the pockets of his white silk coat, which he wore, thinking that he might have unconsciously placed it there at the end of the last game, but his pockets were empty.

"I suggested that near the end of the game it might have jumped off the table, and I looked carefully under the furniture, but failed to find it. There was another set of balls, and out of it I selected a white one for our play, and the game began. It went along in the usual way, the balls constantly falling into the pockets and being replaced on the table.

"This had continued for perhaps half an hour, there being no pocket that had not been frequently occupied and emptied during that time; but then it happened that Mark Twain reached into the middle pocket of the billiard table, and taking out a white ball laid it in place, whereupon we made the discovery that *three white balls lay on the table.* The one just taken from the middle pocket was the missing ball.

We Were Astonished

"We looked at each other, both at first too astonished to say anything. No one had been in the room since we began to play, and at no time during the play had there been more than two white balls in evidence, though the pockets had been emptied at the end of each shot. The pocket from which the missing ball had been taken had been filled and emptied again and again.

"Then Mark Twain said, 'We must be dreaming.' We stopped the game for a while to discuss it, but could devise no material explanation. I suggested a mischievous invisible, which is supposed to play pranks by carrying off such things as pencils, letters, and the like, and suddenly restoring them almost before one's eyes. Twain said, 'But that, so far as I know, has never happened to more than one person at a time, and has been explained by a sort of temporary mental blindness. This thing has happened to two of us, and there can be no question as to the positive absence of the object.'

Alfred Russel Wallace

"He went on to recall Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace had written of such things, and cited instances which Wallace had recorded. Finally, he said, 'Well, it happened, that's all we can say. Nobody can convince me that it didn't'."

In spite of these and other similar experiences Mark Twain voiced his disbelief in spiritual beings. On one occasion, in referring to an incident which caused him to think deeply, after the passing of his daughter, Jean, he wrote:

"For one who does not believe in spirits I have had a most peculiar experience. I went into the bathroom just now, and closed the door. You know how warm it always is in there, and there are no draughts. All at once I felt a cold current of air about me. I thought the door must be open, but it was closed. I said, 'Jean, is this you trying to let me know you have found the others?' Then the cold air was gone." Jean had died in the same room, and the "others" mentioned were his wife, Olivia, and his daughter, "Susy."

"If I Am Appointed"

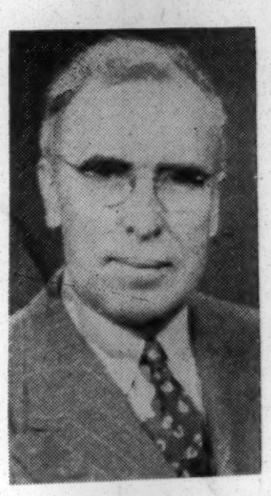
His philosophy of life was, as might be expected, optimistic by nature, and showed him to be a deep-thinking man. Regarding a future life, he wrote: *"If I am appointed to live again, I feel sure it will be for some sane and useful purpose. If annihilation is to follow death, I shall not be aware of the annihilation, and, therefore, shall not care a straw about it."*

In later life he widened his views, and expressed his firm belief in telepathy at least.

Such was the man who made the world laugh with humor which was never cruel. He acknowledged the existence of a strange faculty, but did not trouble to analyze it. Had he done so, no doubt he would have found that his conceptions of a future life was correct.

"The Two Worlds"

THE "N.S.A.'s" NEW PRESIDENT



Psychic Observer

CHARLES R. SMITH was elected to the office of President of the National Spiritualist Association at their recent convention held at The Jefferson Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.

For the past 12 years, he has held the office of trustee and it was upon the retirement of Rev. Joseph P. Whitwell, former President, that he received his appointment by unanimous vote.

Mr. Smith has been a National Missionary for many years and has held the office of President of The Wisconsin State Spiritualist Ass'n.

BATTLE'S LECTURE

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 5)

mention the power which it is claimed some persons possess to influence by mental or spiritual forces the fall of the dice. The dice have been from time immemorial the symbol of irresponsible chance and fortune.

Nevertheless, as doubtless you all know, experiments have been conducted, particularly at *Duke University* in Durham, North Carolina, in which it has apparently been shown beyond question that some persons have the power to influence the roll of these bits of ivory supposed to be so capricious.

Present-day Tendencies

In the same way and by a similar extensive and most careful experimentation, men and women have been found to have the power to name without seeing them a succession of cards in the shuffled pack.

Of course much can be done by magicians and by sleight-of-hand performers. But making all allowance, there remains a residuum of phenomena which show beyond any reasonable question that the human mind has this incomprehensible power to influence material objects in apparently supernatural ways.

And now that I have attempted to outline in a most elementary manner the nature of this psychical research, I shall mention in a few words what seem to me to be some of the most significant of its present-day tendencies.

Fear and Condemnation

In the first place, I should say that the most marked and by far the most gratifying aspect of this question is the increasing willingness to enter upon any branch of this investigation and study. More and more I believe that men and women are realizing the supreme forces of the great saying of St. John, *"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

In past years there was much fear and much condemnation of these spiritual studies and inquiries. Men have been burned at the stake or died upon the gallows for encroaching on these "dangerous" subjects. And while such violent penalties have now receded into the past, there has been in more recent times and indeed there still exists much narrowness of thought, much bigotry and much prejudice against those who venture to study and to think on these fundamental matters.

"Prophets" Not Honored

As I have said, however, there has come a great change in this respect. Our schools, our colleges and our universities have now departments of psychology, psychiatry and the like, pursuing most vigorously the study of these subjects.

It is amazing and surprising to learn the extent to which experiments on this line are progressing in these laboratories of thought. A vast deal has already been accomplished and it is but the beginning. To use an ancient simile, we are as children picking up shells on the beach of the ocean of truth.

All explorers, all pioneers, are at first questioned and doubted. *Sir Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas A. Edison* and a countless host of others were ridiculed as charlatans or denounced as architects of ruin and disaster. Such men are now honored for their fearless pursuit of the truth. This is to my mind perhaps the most welcome of all the new tendencies of this great venture of psychical research.

The Fourth Dimension

The result of these inspiring activities of the mind and of the spirit has been to enlarge very greatly the scope of this psychical field. It is a curious thing that the most puzzling and most incomprehensible propositions along these lines have come from the application of the higher mathematics to the material facts of nature.

For example, it has long been familiar learning that some of the more intricate processes of the integral calculus indicated the existence of a fourth dimension. Our senses can, of course, only grasp and understand the three dimensions of length, breadth and thickness. These mathematical formulae, however, indicate that there is in the universe a fourth dimension of space, something that we find great difficulty in comprehending at all.

And the same thing is true as to time. We pass our lives within the borders of time and space. Yet most of us believe with the poet that when we come to pass to the other side we will find that *"from out this bourne of time and space the tides shall bear us far."*

Our Great Enemy

To study these great psychic truths profoundly and to reason about them fearlessly is perhaps our highest mental achievement.

It is most gratifying to know that our organization and other like societies all over the face of this earth are now going forward in this great quest for truth and wisdom. It is not to my mind the learning which we shall accumulate, it is not even the benefits that will accrue from that learning that make this psychic study and research so priceless, so valuable beyond all words—it is rather the spirit that animates this great activity of the mind. For that way lies truth and freedom.

Ignorance begets fear and fear is the great enemy of mankind. From this passion of fear come the curses of hate, of prejudice, of bigotry and of intolerance. *If we will hold high the torch of truth, if we will follow its light wherever it leads, then our progress shall be ever onward and upward, and we shall rise by stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things.*

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Number One Hundred Fifty-three

The above is the number of the present issue of PSYCHIC OBSERVER. You will find this number in the upper left hand corner of the first page.

This number is advanced every two weeks — showing the number of PSYCHIC OBSERVERS issued up to date.

The date of this paper is:

January 25th, 1945

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Psychic Observer Editor To Speak

JULIETTE EWING PRESSING, Lily Dale, N. Y., Editor of *Psychic Observer*, is scheduled to make two public addresses SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1945; One in *New York City* at 3 P. M. and the other in *Irvington, N. J.* at 8 P. M.

Mrs. Pressing's afternoon lecture, Sunday, 3 P. M. (Jan. 21), will be sponsored by The *Spiritual* and *Ethical Society* at The *Astor Hotel*, Broadway and 44th St., *N. Y. C.* Following the lecture, there will be a demonstration of clairvoyance by *William Skidmore*, pastor of the Church of Eternal Light, Jamaica, N. Y.

Mrs. Pressing's evening lecture, Sunday, 8 P. M. (Jan. 21), will be sponsored by The *Spiritualist Temple* of *Light*, 22 Union St., *Irvington, N. J.* Demonstrations of clairvoyance by church staff mediums will follow. For additional information write: Fred *Schneider*, 608 West 140th St. (Apt. 15), New York City or Henry *Diehl*, 20 Orange Place, Irvington (11), New Jersey.

The Extraordinary Mediumship of
HOMER WATKINS

ACCURATE CLAIRVOYANCE DEMONSTRATED BY DETROIT PSYCHIC

Evidence Galore Received By Many Who Vouch For Authentic Messages.

By
JULIETTE EWING PRESSING

In a grove meeting at Camp Chesterfield last summer, *Homer Watkins*, pastor of Church of Spirit Communion, Detroit, Michigan proved the reality of "*spirit communion*" in each of the twenty-five or more messages he delivered to the audience of over a hundred people.

At sunset, each evening, a crowd assembles for this open air service which is one of the most popular features of the camp. Many strangers who see the sign "*Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp*" on the main highway, drive in to attend. I recall the general trend of several messages given on this occasion.

All Strangers To Medium

The medium indicated he wanted to reach a certain person, by calling out "*I wish to reach the lady, fourth row in rear, third seat from center aisle. You have been on these grounds 28 minutes. You have never attended a Spiritualist meeting before. You live on —— Street. ——— (town called out) You are employed as reporter on paper in ——. Your mother, (full name given) stands beside me and gives me this information. You have many relatives and friends in the higher life.*"

He proceeded to give with amazing speed and accuracy, full names, dates of births, passing, relationships.

Messages Are Verified

Another startling message was for a group of three people. Their own names and connections were called out, followed by minute descriptions of their residences. Each room was carefully described. Several spirits who had owned various pieces of furniture and bric-a-brac, now in possession of these people, gave personal identification.

In addition, Mr. Watkins, also described their former possessions in such detail, anyone would have known that the "*dead*" are alive, and retain full consciousness after transition.

At the close of the meeting, I approached several people who had received the communications. In each case, they attested that the medium was absolutely correct. Several were complete strangers, attracted by the sign on the highway.

They asked me the commonplace question that invariably pops into the mind of all inquirers. "*How does he do it? How did he know my name? I was never here before. I am a stranger. No one knew I was coming. I didn't even know it myself, until I saw the sign on the highway. I came out of curiosity to see what Spiritualism is all about.*'

Sometimes I "See"

They came to investigate. They wanted to know *how*, it is all done.

This question has also puzzled me. After years of patient sitting and study, I frequently have received messages and demonstrations through my own limited mediumship.

Sometimes, I *actually* see spirit people who appear so natural, I am under the impression that they are earth people.

I recall last summer, here in our own bookshop in Lily Dale, I was sitting in the back office, probably twenty feet away from where Mr. Pressing was seated in the front office. *Ann Miller*, our bookkeeper was rearranging some books on shelves about three feet from Mr. Pressing. I glanced up. I saw a very stunning and beautifully groomed woman enter the front door. She was looking at books. I proceeded with my writing. In a few moments, I looked up to see the woman leaving by way of the front door.

I asked, "*Who was that woman?*"

Mr. Pressing and Mrs. Miller simultaneously said, "*What woman?*"

I replied, "*The woman who was there, looking at books.*" They declared that *not one living soul* had been in the book shop.

How Did I Do It?

I proceeded to describe the woman and her costume, including her hat and jewelry. If there had not been two witnesses, it would have been difficult to convince me that I had not seen an earth person.

How did I do it? I am sure I do not know. My opinion is, that for the moment, my vision penetrated the veil into spirit. As a matter of fact, I think the spirit woman actually was present in the book shop.

Ordinarily, I would not have observed minute details and quality of materials of clothing. Is the spirit vision more penetrating than ordinary sight? Seemingly, so.

On other occasions, I've been engaged in conversation with people. Suddenly, I'll see, hazily, but clearly enough to accurately describe spirit people. Objects will be shown me to identify the spirits.

The "How" of Clairvoyance

My opinion is that this type of clairvoyance, is impressed upon my psychic vision by a discarnate spirit collaborator.

Then, I've seen very clearcut pictures that appear as movies. The people in such pictures will really talk to me. I *actually* hear.

I do not think these voices are objective, in the sense that anyone present could hear the same as I. To date, I've never had this particular type of seeing and hearing when anyone was present.

The messages given in these instances have proved accurate, by subsequent happenings here in earth life, so I *know* that I have *seen* and *heard*.

Despite these personal experiences I certainly cannot explain *how* I see it, or *how* I do it.

Difficult To Understand

I have discussed this subject with many mediums who have declared that they do not *know* exactly how they receive their messages.

In most cases, they state that the hearing isn't definite clair-audience, but an inner sense of knowing that they are receiving data of which they have no previous knowledge.

Some mediums have said they experience an overwhelming sense of apprehension just before they start a message service or spiritual consultation.

They have no way of absolutely knowing that they will receive anything. Their faith is tried to the utmost. All that is actually known about the entire case of mediumship, is that evidence and facts are accumulated and physical phenomena produced, but the laws under which these facts are governed, are by no means easily explained.

Mediumship Individual

This, I believe, has been the common experience of the vast majority—if not all—of those who have devoted many years to the pursuit of psychical research. Yet this inability to bring our knowledge to the stage which would permit a laying down of a formula, guaranteed to insure complete success in the prosecution of this branch of research, must not be allowed to detract from the absolute reality of the facts observed.

Each medium and each group of invisible operators are a law unto themselves.

To continue with my description of Watkin's mediumship, I can state that this particular seance was on a par with any I have witnessed.

At the close of the service, I overheard a man say, "*I am from California. I have travelled all over this country and in my many years of research, I have heard hundreds of mediums, including even the great John Slater; but never in my life, have I heard such an amazing demonstration of clairvoyance.*"

What the Skeptics Say

Later, I made a booking for a solo sitting with Mr. Watkins. It was held in a room in the Lily Hotel at Chesterfield camp. I find it most interesting and educational to keenly observe the style of work done by various mediums.

On this occasion, Mr. Watkins, paced up and down the floor for a moment. He abruptly sat down, reached for a pencil and began giving out names, incidents unknown to anyone but myself, writing furiously all the while.

Skeptics may say, "*Oh, he had it all prepared and could write it out.*"

INDEED! He recalled long forgotten incidents of my early childhood and names of people of whom I had not given a thought for years and years.

People frequently say to me, '*Oh, Mrs. Pressing, it is easy for mediums to give you wonderful readings. You write so many articles. They know all about you.*"

I realize that in part, this is

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 5)

DIRECT-VOICE MEDIUM

REV. HOMER WATKINS, minister of The Spiritual Communion Church, 3910 Avery Ave., Detroit, Michigan. He is a lecturer, mental and direct-voice medium.

Rev. Watkins is a member of the staff of mediums at Chesterfield Spiritualist Association, Chesterfield, Indiana —having recently purchased a cottage on the association grounds, where he will conduct his private spiritual work each summer season during July and August.

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Brown Landone

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4)

mind received knowledge from the mind of the author of the book?

I recognize your right to any opinion your mind conceives, yet naturally I have my own. I have studied science of mind and spirit for many years; contacted leaders of almost every kind of thought—from the crudely psychological to that of the mystic; and I find that each one excludes much knowledge that is known to the others.

But this I know: I am made in the image and likeness of God. God is infinite; and hence God is infinite knowledge, infinite love, infinite life; and infinite power to create.

Knowing that God is infinite and that I am infinite, I do not doubt that when my soul is moved by a great desire, it can expand in its infinity and *enfold* the very thing I most desire at that time.

Be a Contestant

I KNOW that my soul IS infinite! If I fall asleep for only two minutes, as soon as my darned conscious mind gives up its attempts to limit my soul, *my soul CAN in dream be conscious of being present in a hundred places on earth, and all within minutes!*

Even though the conscious mind is the most limiting activity of all human mentality, yet the soul is infinite! And *desire* is the one power of the soul that frees it of the limitations of the conscious mind.

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Was it seen by *objective clairvoyance?*

Was it perceived by *extra-sense perception?*

Was its KNOWLEDGE by the *expanded consciousness* of Dr. Landone's mind?

Was it recognition of the *one-ness of all knowledge of the Infinite?*

Was it effected by *telepathy*—by the author's mind sending pages of data to Dr. Landone's mind?

* * * *

And now FIRST, show this copy of *Psychic Observer* to five other people and let each one read this article.

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Medical Discoveries of Andrew Jackson Davis

ETERNAL PRINCIPLE OF SPIRIT HEALING

Mental Healing—A highly specialized field; No special method applicable to all ailments.

By P. A. JENSEN

The medical revelations of *Andrew Jackson Davis*, in the cause and cure of disease, has proven to be a new discovery. It is superior to the discovery of *Harvey* and *Jenner* combined, because it transcends them both in extent and in importance.

Davis revealed for the first time that all disease has its first origin in the soul and not, as it is generally believed, in the physical body.

"*The moving principle, which animates and controls the body,*" says Davis, "*is first disturbed;* then the material parts take on a corresponding disturbance."

Matter Defined

Suppose for example you absorb a dose of arsenic. This mineral is a deadly poison. But would it poison a stone jug? The question answers itself, because the jug is not animated by a living principle that could experience death by poisoning.

Man's dead body could not be poisoned by calomel nor awakened by the thunders of a nation's artillery, because the soul principle is not within it.

"*Matter will not respond intelligently to any appeal, neither will it, separated from the vital intelligence, generate either pain or pleasure.*"

If you drink a glass of brandy, the soul-principle is first disturbed by the spirit within the fluid; then as a natural and inevitable consequence, the body itself, with its varied parts and functions, receives a record of the disturbance; and the magnitude of such disturbance is always proportional to the extent to which the soul principle is thrown from its accustomed equilibrium.

Heat Reactions

The temperature exerts one of two influences: first, it either agrees with and promotes healthy conditions, or it does not.

If the bodily temperature does not accord with that balanced state which we term "health," the result is a change among the atomic motions of the parts most affected by the disturbance; and the next, or succeeding effect, is either too much or too little heat in the assailed organs or functions.

If too much heat exist in a particular part, then the atoms of that part are in too rapid motion for health and the first development is an inflammation. While in some other parts the atomic motion may be too slow and the result is a chill.

Dr. Davis On Health

Davis has tabulated seven general causes of disease and seven natural remedies of cure. The causes of disease are:

Hereditary predisposition, accidents to life, atmospherical changes, situation, occupation, habit, and spiritual disturbances. And the natural remedies for all non-accidental diseases are: Food, clothing, water, air, light, electricity, and magnetism.

Man is surrounded by thousands of influences which are adequate to the development of spiritual, and then physical affections. He may be influenced by the electrical or magnetic elements of nature.

Winter is the negative period of the year and the atmosphere is surcharged with a super-abundance of electricity. Fluids, forces, and atoms are repelled into the interior of the earth. The sap of trees rushes far down into their roots, and little plants are forced to retire from the sun.

Summer Is Positive

Man makes corresponding revolutions and experiences corresponding sensations and consequences, because he is a wheel within nature and revolves with the seasons.

But in summer everything is drawn to the surface. Fluids, forces, flowers, plants, atoms—all are attracted and invited to expand themselves and welcome the glorious light of the sun.

Thus summer is the positive, magnetic, and warm period; winter is the negative, electrical, and cold period. And the negative and positive state of the atmosphere may become the immediate cause of disease, because the vital electricity and the vital magnetism of the human constitution draw their nourishment from these elements existing in terrestrial nature.

Andrew Jackson DAVIS

And should the individual be situated in a locality where one of these elements preponderates over the other, his constitution will be acted upon accordingly.

Those who are thrown into a negative condition may, in accordance with their constitutional predisposition, suffer from one or more of the great number of diseases due to a low, negative condition of the physical organism—such as consumption, asthma, catarrh, dropsy, spinal diseases, influenza—or from any internal disease that never comes to the surface.

The diseases due to a positive condition of the body are those diseases which come to the surface—such as eruptive, cutaneous and inflammatory disease, smallpox, lung brain fevers, yellow and typhoid fevers—"or any one of the many diseases which arise in the serous membranes."

Davis' Remedies

People accustomed to run to a drug store, with a doctor's prescription, every time they are ill, and in the habit of swallowing large doses of mineral poison to get well, may have little faith in the natural and simple remedies advocated by Davis.

They seem no doubt, too mild and simple to be effective when compared to the bleeding, blistering, purging, and calomelizing remedies in use by the regular profession. But food, dress, water, air, light, electricity, and magnetism exert a most potent influence on the vital or spiritual principle which circulates through the body.

Disease, as stated by Davis, is always accompanied by either a rise or a fall of the bodily temperature, consequently both food and dress can be selected that are helpful to restore the temperature to normal, which is health.

Light and Color Cures

There are Hydropathic institutes which use nothing but water as a remedy for disease, and some Allopathic hospitals have adopted the cold water cure for typhoid fever and their percentage of cures is high.

Pure air is adequate to the cure of every species of pulmonary complaint, through daily and systematic deep breathing and application of the will (as outlined by Davis), is commenced in time.

Light and color as curative elements are already becoming known. Electricity and magnetism are most potent curative elements, for the particulars, the book must be studied.

The art of healing advocated by Davis is eclectic using everything beneficial in the healing art. Davis gave full credit to Allopathy for its truthful and beneficial sciences of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, nursing, surgery, obstetrics, and its discoveries in chemistry and bacteriology.

Indiscriminate Drugging

Indeed, the world today could not get along without the Allopathic physician. And it is a thousand times safer for the sick to place themselves under his care, if they can dodge the medicine, than under the care of a practitioner of a clairvoyant, ignorant of all scientific knowledge pertaining to the human body.

The indiscriminate drugging, however, is one of the great evils of modern times. Whether drugs will cure disease, or not, is no longer a debatable point among many people outside the medical profession; the great number of sick and chronic uncurables everywhere bear unequivocal testimony to the futility of medicine.

Both intoxicants and "dope" are in daily use in many institutions. I have seen patients forced to swallow brandy, until it ran out of their mouth, in order to keep them alive a few days or hours longer.

And narcotic injections belongs to some regular systems of treatment, the nurses carry the hypodermic syringe and they never hesitate to use it.

How many drunkards and "dope" addicts are first recruited through certain methods of treatment will never be known.

The only certain thing known is, that there is nothing in the pharmacopeia which will cure them.

The Abuses of Allopathy

"*Allopathy has developed a vast congregation of pernicious errors and delusive speculations,*" says Davis, "*upon the nature and number of diseases.*"

In truth, its science is no science at all—it is simply an accumulation of facts, experiments, experiences, and isolated phenomena which have occurred in the domain of human disease and misery.

The universal impression that disease is an entity, is something to fight down with medical weapons, is erroneous. Disease is not matter to be removed, to be held, vomited, or purged out of the system—but a condition to be altered.

Davis Says:

There are numerous instances, however, when the use of the lancet, leeches, emetics, cathartics, etc., are indispensable.

Accidents to life are unnatural events — lesions, injuries of organs, bones and muscles, scalds, burns, bite of venomous animals, overloaded stomach, poisons swallowed, etc.—these are evils and events which require active agents to neutralize and overcome.

But to use these superficial and pernicious instrumentalities in the treatment of natural and non-accidental diseases and constitutional disturbances is opposed to Nature and reason.

I am impressed to write against the use of medicines, because I know that one half of the chronic diseases prevalent in the civilized portion of the earth are caused by the use of various unnaturally compounded and administered remedies, which disturb permanently spiritual principle.

Nature Tells Us

Medicine can no more produce physical harmony than dungeons can produce social harmony.

The present systems of treating disease are substantially modes of defrauding Nature out of her proper pains and aches, which are indications of existing discord.

Disease is supposed to be removed and eradicated when the individual experiences nothing of its characteristic symptoms, and medicine generally gets the credit of achieving this signal victory; but I know that medicines penetrate, imprison, and partially murder some of the weakest and most susceptible organs of the body.

Disease of Mental Origin

When Davis first made this new medical discovery, ninety-odd years ago, that all diseases are mental or spiritual in origin few people, I think, were impressed by his discovery; it seemed, no doubt, too artificial and fanciful to be based on reality.

But today, when mental and spiritual healing are practiced everywhere, the theory not only becomes reasonable but inevitable.

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 4)

STAMFORD SPIRITUALIST MINISTER'S NEW CHURCH STUDY

Psychic Observer

REV. M. McBRIDE PANTON, minister for The Albertson Memorial Church of Spiritualism, Inc., 485 Summer Street, Stamford, Connecticut, seated in study of the new church building. The church was founded eight years ago by Dr. Isabelle K. MACDONALD, President. Meetings held every Thursday and Sunday.

Several months ago, dedication services were held. Those taking part were: Rev. Raymond BURNS, Rev. Arthur FORD and Rev. Harold LUMSDEN. The new church building contains pews with a seating capacity of 150, a class-room and pastor's study. On second floor, minister's apartment and quarters for visiting mediums and speakers. Ample parking space on church property.

The Psychic Observer

"Spiritualism's Pictorial Journal"

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WATKINS' MEDIUMSHIP

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 5)

true. Consequently, I've trained myself to carefully separate all material and weigh up what can be considered evidential.

Spiritualism rests upon mediumship. Mediumship is the bridge between the two worlds, chiefly to provide definite proof that there are no dead and communication can be proved . . . and so, unless I receive some bit of definite evidence, I do not report a seance for the readers of *Psychic Observer*.

No matter how solidly convinced I may be of the stark reality of the experiences I have related, I do not expect such knowledge as I have gained at first hand to convince others at second hand. I am well aware that nothing less than personal investigation, and the obtainment of direct knowledge by that means, can bring absolute conviction to any properly balanced, critical mind.

However, these little experiences may open the way for persons who are desirous of seeking personal knowledge, and for that reason I am delighted to tell you of Mr. Watkins, and the evidence I have witnessed and received through his superb mediumship.

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(P-152-153)

The Mediumship of Theodor C. Russell

He is the leader of The Cosmic Science Foundation, Inc. in the city of Buffalo, N. Y.—with services every Sunday evening in the Terrace Room of Hotel Statler.

"Spiritual Evolution is the work of each individual and part of the great purpose."

By Psychic Observer Reporter

Although known as *"America's premier psychic,"* Theodor C. Russell's mediumship holds a cosmopolitan touch because he has explained the doctrine of Spiritualism in England, and European countries, including Italy, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and France.

The famous group of ivories he collected in China counts in still another corner of the globe.

It was the loan of these exquisite antiques and a lecture on them that gave him his entree to the Italian and French *Bibliotheque Institute*, where he spoke on what is phrased as the *"Immortality of Life."*

"Merely Spiritualism under a different term," smiles the tall, dynamic and handsome medium, whose two chief personal indentification marks are a shock of prematurely grey hair and a spontaneous smile that—when it frequently flashes—seems to take his whole face into its confidence.

While In France

In Italy his appearance was under the sponsorship of *Count de Reginni;* in England he spoke before the *Royal Art* and *Science Institute.* On the continent, his appearances were before full-dress audiences, which he says showed a keen interest in subjects psychic.

Mr. Russell credits the occupants of France as being *"just naturally a psychic people."* While living in his Cannes home, the foundations of which are said to have been constructed B.C., he felt that intense force which the French seemed to have.

A self-labelled *"Spiritualist for 28 years,"* he has given thousands of "messages" during that time. But perhaps the one that he gave himself back in '31 paralleled any he has received from other mediums.

Prior to that time he had suffered severely with a case of tuberculosis. It was impairing his health so much, that he often had to be carried on the platform to give messages. Men under a similar severe physical test have gone to Arizona.

Chautauqua Redpath

But *Ted Russell* spoke from a Buffalo platform, *"In ten years I'll be back here, standing on this very platform giving messages."* . . . and he is doing just that.

His audience viewed his emaciated form and too apparent weakness and almost visibly shook their heads. *"Never alive,"* might have been the reaction.

He went to France. An even eight years were devoted to rebuilding his body. In eight years to the day, he returned to Buffalo, opened what has developed into a string of appearances lecturing and demonstrating the tenets of Spiritualism.

In his years of mediumship, he has appeared under canvas, in Chautauqua Redpath, in schoolhouses, theaters, halls, private seance rooms, churches. Always with that manner that adjusts the service to the audience he is trying to reach.

That is called *"good theater"* in the realm in which he made his first appearance at the age of three—on the stage. From his first appearance, through enacting little *Lord Flaunteroy*, appearing as one of the first children to act behind cameras in the movies, giving impersonations — he learned the effect of audiences. He learned the audience as a vital, fascinating unit, whose reactions could be swayed jointly only if a speaker gauged the component parts.

Theodor RUSSELL

Vaudeville was a great school. His colleagues included such as Pauline Frederick, starring as "Mary of Scotland' or "Madame X" in the silents.

It was from this background that he was lightly enticed to attend a service in which Etta Bledsoe was to give messages. It was a startling one he was given.

"You will work on the same platform as I do," she said. *"We will work together."*

He started to study with her, instinctively recognizing that this prophetic philosophy of life after death was going to be the core of his life.

A Friend of Bledsoe

Ted didn't realize the scope of Etta Bledsoe's message, *"We will work together."* For eventually they formed a unique teamed appearance that startled many.

Both standing on the platform at the same time, their messages would dovetail. On the left Mrs. Bledsoe would be saying, *"A sister comes to you . . . she had red hair and was extremely graceful . . ."* Her working colleague would interject, *"Her name was Marvina, Marvina Strong, wasn't it?"* And as the woman in the audience nodded a bewildered head, Mrs. Bledsoe would add, *"Her middle name was Chloe and she died in Cincinnati, is that correct?"*

The message would be a personality sketch. Together they supplemented the message with identifying bits of the spirit whom they claimed to be presenting. Recipients often stood up in acknowledgement.

The beloved old time worker, Mrs. Bledsoe, and her partner might be giving different messages, one to someone in one section of the audience, the other leaning over toward another in a different section.

Morris Pratt Institute

It is such appearances that helped to put the adjective *"sensational"* on his work. It was not a slam, but a banner, indicating the honest respect folks have for the convincing drama and detail that he can pack into a message so that it will not only be "proof of survival" to the recipient, but will be fascinating to every other person in the room.

Mr. Russell studied for development at *Morris Pratt Institute*, but put a lot of lone wolf study into his work. He believed that folks should get the strength and depth of this philosophy, and should not be blinded by the details of messages alone. But his very messages are so loaded with detail that they are a clear signpost pointing the way to the philosophy.

Death—An Escalator

Writing radio scripts for Uncle Sam's benefit, writing a story for a national magazine that incorporates gentle United States propaganda, he continues "giving a lot of himself," as he has to Spiritualist audiences in these past 20 years.

His own philosophy is built on the basis of service and lack of fear. Lectures in his services Sunday evenings at Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y., carry constant reminders of that.

He'll describe death as *"an escalator that takes you where you belong,"* or as a *"shadow through a mist."*

He conducts a class once a week. It is before a few of his workers that a unique demonstration of psychic phenomena comes through. Distributed drawing papers are signed in pencil, dropped within a foot of water.

Then Mr. Russell requests each sitter to name what type of a *"head"* he wishes to appear on the paper. Within 20 minutes small two by three inch heads will have appeared on the paper.

All Must Die To Live

They are heads colored delicately with water colors, which do not run, unless someone smears a finger across the fresh wet paint.

Audiences have heard him, not only in the Cosmic Science Foundation in Buffalo, but also in places in this country as widely scattered as New Orleans and Boston, as Whitewater, Wis., to Lake Pleasant, Mass., and Brady Lake, Ohio.

Ted believes that "spiritual evolution is the work of the individual. Part of the great purpose of your stay here on this proving ground is for a refining process prior to your advance to other planes.

"Once discovered, the truth about death is a great aid, for it is decreed that 'all must live to die and all must die to live.' Courage and wisdom are needed in this 'great adventure' on earth, and there is an inexhaustible source from whence to draw help and comfort when necessity arises, and through which many complex problems are made clear and understandable. Life can be a charming challenge instead of a dangerour interlude."

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(P-149-154)

FAMOUS MEDIUMS

Lizzie and May Bangs

About the famous Bang Sisters' spirit painting of IDA.

By W. H. EVANS

The Bangs Sisters were Mediums through whom direct-writing, drawing and painting was received.

Living in Chicago they had done excellent work but, like most Mediums through whom physical manifestations are given, they did not escape being accused of fraud, and there has been some controversy about their work.

IDA

Why they remained in the thorny path of mediumship instead of trying the more lucrative one of public entertainers and purveyors of the marvellous, is one of those strange phenomena associated with this subject.

Many people have proven the genuineness of the phenomena occurring, and there is no doubt that they possessed real mediumistic powers of a rare character.

Slate Writing

Their method of work was quite open. The sitter writes a number of questions, enclosing them with a number of blank sheets of paper in a sealed envelope. At the sitting the envelope is put between two slates, which seem to act as a cabinet, the slates being secured with an elastic band.

The sitter keeps his hand upon the slates put upon a small table with a baize-covered top, the Mediums sitting on the opposite side of the table and *not touching the slates.* A small pot of ink is also on the table.

After some time, raps announce that the messages are written, and the sitter then takes out his envelope, opens it and finds his messages written in ink upon the blank papers enclosed with the questions.

Admiral W. U. Moore

The Medium often asks . . . has such and such a question been written, indicating that by some means she is receiving knowledge of the questions asked.

Dr. I. K. Funk investigated their mediumship and formed a very high opinion of it. *Hereward Carrington* said he caught them producing fraudulent messages, and told how *David P. Abbott* had duplicated the phenomena of direct writing and drawing.

This brought a reply from *Vice-Admiral W. Usborne Moore* that the pictures and drawings by Abbott were *not* produced under conditions that in any way corresponded to these under which the *Bangs Sisters* did their work.

Portrait of a Guide

Admiral Moore describes how he obtained the portrait of his guide, Ida. He writes, *"Two thin canvases stretched on wooden frames and covered with thin paper were placed face to face and held up in the window. The blind was drawn to the top of the canvases, and curtains were hung up in my presence on either side.*

"The window has a southern aspect, and the light coming through the two semi-transparent canvases is sufficient for the purposes of taking notes and seeing everything that goes on. The small oak table was lengthwise in the window; the bottom of the canvases rests upon it.

"May Bangs sat on the right side facing me and pinching together with her right hand one side of the canvases; Lizzie Bangs on my left side facing me and pinching together the other side of the canvases with her left hand. I faced the middle of the canvases, my nose being between two feet and two feet six inches from them."

Typewriter Phenomena

Those were the conditions under which the picture was precipitated on to the canvas. The actual time for the production of the picture was thirty-five minutes. *"On separating the canvases,"* continued the writer, *"it was found that the picture was on the farther side of the one nearest to me, and the material was quite damp."*

Admiral Moore watched the process and saw the picture built up under his eyes.

These pictures were also produced in public halls. Apports of flowers were received, objects disappeared and chemical changes effected, such as turning ink into dirty water.

Perhaps the most remarkable direct writing received through the mediumship of Miss Lizzie Bangs was the direct manipulation of a typewriter. The typewriter continued to be operated while held in the air by four men, whilst the materialized hand manipulating the keys was seen by them.

Negative Result

It is interesting to note that when Carrington sat for a portrait that, although he got nothing, he found on examining the canvas that there were no signs of the canvas having been prepared in any way. It is a negative result but has its value.

A. B. Richmond describes a sitting with them. "Soon I heard a faint noise between the slates. *It did not sound like writing, but more like the crawling of an insect imprisoned between them; in a few moments there came three distinct raps. I opened the slates and found two messages written in the Morse alphabet, one of them signed by one to whom the interrogation was directed, and who could not in this life read or write telegraphy, the other from a prominent jurist who died a number of years ago."*

Whatever mistakes the Bangs Sisters may have made, and it seems they made some, it also seems certain that they did produce genuine phenomena.

The picture produced in the sitting given to Admiral Usborne Moore of his guide Ida, may be seen above.

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HEAVEN — *After Death*

AN EXPLANATION

In this author's opinion, those who are unhappy because they have to live where they do not want to live, have eliminated all chances of Heaven — in its truest sense.

You May Change Your Viewpoint After Reading This Article by T. F. Orbes.

Where is Heaven? This question has been incessantly asked. *"We do not reach Heaven at a single bound—we mount the ladder by which we rise, round by round."*

We have wondered what could have been in the mind of the poet —what could have been his idea of Heaven. But we must take into consideration the many who actually believe that Heaven is a far off place, beyond the range of physical vision, somewhere in the territory behind the stars in the sky.

This poet must have believed in a place that could be set aside from the rest of creation. He must have believed implicitly in that story of a place whose streets are paved with gold, where there are thrones and kings as rulers.

But is there such a place? Is there such a Heaven? Granting that there is such a place, would it be Heaven if, perchance, we were admitted, if we were the only one of our family who had gained that favor? Would it be Heaven to us to be compelled to do just one thing for time without end?

Where Humanity Dwells

Is there a place wherein a condition of Life could exist that could be truly and really called Heaven, where there is no allusion to mind chambers or to activities other than playing the golden harp and worshiping a Savior?

The portrayal of happiness in human relations is not intended at this time. We are only attempting to locate a tangible place wherein humanity dwells after the *change* called Death.

First of all, we must eliminate the idea of the kind of Heaven that is portrayed by the poem or that described in the Bible. Eliminate all fanatical religious teachings which have been handed down through the generations and hold in mind the idea of a natural Life, continued *after* Death.

Realize that Life begins before birth and that we only become partially reconciled to the flesh before Death; only partially recognize the environment in which we have found ourselves; in the associations which we are compelled to accept, the companions whom we must choose.

Even A Child Must Be Taught

Realize that, coming into earth life, we were tutored by someone who aided us before we became strong enough in limb and body and were properly correlated in mind. Someone intruded their ideas upon us before our mind had reached a stage of stability sufficient to form any ideas of its own.

This means that we have accepted, without reservation, ninety-five per cent of all we know about Heaven from those who had the care of us while we were young; by those who, in reality, did not know very much about Heaven.

Not remembering where they came from, they were unable to make any comparison, for it is only by comparison that the ability to understand facts, become possible.

95% Believe In After-life

Let us take this next Life at just half the price we have paid for the earth Life, at the time the chemist Death made his lighning changes in the human body; where do we find ourselves! Are we at home or abroad? Just under what circumstances were we living?

If we were living a life of luxury and ease, and it pleased us, we were in Heaven. If it did not please us, we were not in Heaven, regardless of location of our position.

Those who are unhappy because they have to live where they do not want to live, have eliminated all chances of Heaven.

When the chemist, Death, destroys the physical body, has he destroyed the Life? Most people believe that he has *not* because they do believe, deep down in their hearts, regardless of how disappointed they are, that they are going to live in an eternity of some kind. They are not considering that they are *now* living in eternity.

Law of Attraction

When they pass out of this physical body, do they find themselves still of the opinion that Heaven is a location to which they have transferred their abode and is recorded on the map just as much as New York City or London? Heaven, in the great plan of Nature, began upon our entrance into earth life and it continues to exist through all time and eternity.

When in this earth life, if we lived in a low, dirty part of the city, it wasn't much of a Heaven. If living in a clean part of a city, it was a little better; if living where the fresh air was in abundance, it was very satisfactory; thus Heaven, is just like earth.

We are drawn according to our magnetic powers into *this* location or *that*. Our magnetic powers illumine our path and, according to this illumination, we choose our abode.

All Life Progressive

Those who are very fond of music naturally gravitate to the realms where their souls can feed on music; if they love art, they will naturally gravitate to that location. The thing that *dominates* their *earth* life, dominates their life in the new sphere commonly called Heaven.

Each Life is a law unto itself. The element that dominates in the earth dimension will dominate us in the Heaven dimension. If we are criminals it is in our blood; we are magnetically held to the element in which we function until we change our magnetic aura. We do this through desire which cultivates within us the proper chemical conditions.

Sometimes this desire to change comes before Death; again, not until after the second or third *death*. The life that dominates these several bodies is progressive, in search for greater understanding of the laws of Nature.

Heaven is the counterpart of earth and it is possible to realize this new kingdom and Greater Life before the physical Death takes place.

We Build For Ourselves

Heaven is not a state of mind—No! It is, a tangible quality that can be felt, has exactly the same relation to the spirit body as the earth has to the physical body; its laws are exactly the same as the laws governing the earth. Though the body be dead, we can remain in the same environment, regardless of the presence of others for tens of thousands of years if we so desire.

There is no power or group of powers that can take us away from any condition or place in the earth environment, if we desire to stay. We can build for ourself, wonderful homes and enjoy the society of those with whom we dwelt while in the flesh body, unknown to them. We find beauty and grandeur where we never saw it before.

Coming into this new and greater dimension of life, we change our viewpoint on many things; we beautify the old places that looked unlovely to us; we renew the old, worn out threads in the carpet, we rekindle the fire on the hearth and weave again the pattern of that faded dress; we fill the crevices with our love and our vibrations and the old deserted spot becomes, in the twinkling of a moment, the wonderful Heaven we had dreamed about.

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Ectoplasm Can Heal

By ED BODIN

Psychic Reporter, New York City

I have just talked to an American soldier, recently honorably discharged from the army, due to wounds. Because of his orthodox family he does not desire his name mentioned, but he has confided in me as one interested in psychic matters.

"I have seen ectoplasm on the battlefield," he said, *"above the bodies of dying men. I have watched it emanate from a badly wounded soldier and then disappear as that soldier breathed his last. One hillbilly comrade from Kentucky, called it 'soul-mist,' revealing that many natives in his part of the country considered it quite a normal thing, although they seldom talk about it."*

What A Soldier Believed

And he said: *"I believe ectoplasm has healing properties—and maybe was the strange aura reported around Jesus when He healed the sick.'* And then he told this story. . .

"I was wounded about 5 o'clock that afternoon—a piece of shrapnel tore a hole in my right side. I stopped the bleeding the best I could with emergency bandages, then waited to be picked up by some member of the medical corps. I couldn't stand up as the blow had paralyzed me. About ten feet to my left, lay a soldier wounded worse than I—his right arm was missing. He moaned, and then half-conscious he called for water.

It Appeared Like Ectoplasm

"I tried to crawl to him, but had no strength. I looked at him with pity, forgetting my own pain. Then in the deepening twilight I saw strange smoke begin to curl above him as though coming from his stomach as he lay on his back moaning. The stump of his arm was in the thick mud congealing the blood to some extent and making death slower.

"Then I remembered what my friend has said about soul-mist, and I watched fascinated as the ectoplasm became denser and began to flow toward me. For a moment I thought I saw in it the face of a kindly old lady.

Before He Died

"Presently it reached me and for a second I was bewildered by the strange sensation that came over me. I felt stronger. With my left arm I raised myself and began to crawl to the dying soldier. I reached for my canteen of water. The mist was still around me, and with a sudden effort I was on my feet, and beside the soldier. I knelt and poured water down his parched throat. For a moment he smiled and opened his eyes. *"Thanks, friend,"* he whispered, but with that his eyes closed again and I knew he was dead.

Couldn't Save Himself

"Forgetting my own wound, I rose and walked three-quarters of a mile before I collapsed in the arms of a red-cross man. I remained unconscious for three days. Medical attendants could not understand how I had lived, to say nothing of having enough strength to come in unaided. But to my dying day, I shall believe the ectoplasm from the body of that dying soldier had helped me in a mysterious way. It had given me sufficient strength to save my life. That soul mist of a sacrificed soldier was like the spiritual light of Jesus about whom it was said: *'He could save others, but not Himself'."*

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ENGLISH AUTHOR

Psychic Observer

SYLVIA BARBANELL, wife of Maurice Barbanell, the editor of "Psychic News,"

She is author of the book, "WHEN A CHILD DIES," in which will be found incontestible evidence that all children survive bodily death. In spirit world, according to this book, their lives continue and their new existence is comparable but not compatible, with earthly life—for theirs is a world of greater beauty and richer opportunity.

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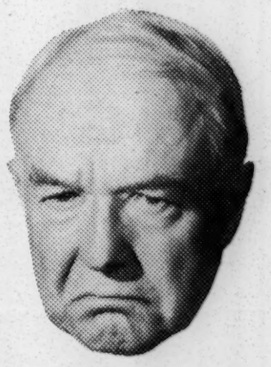

"I'll tell you BAD TIMES AHEAD!"

What's it to you?—PLENTY!

OKAY! Maybe the optimists are right. There'll be good times after the war.

OKAY! Maybe the pessimists are right. We'll have another depression.

What's it to you? PLENTY! It's largely in *your* hands as to which we'll have.

The one way to make it *good times* is to do your share to help keep prices down now!

That means *buying only what you really need*. It means *paying off your debts, saving your money*.

And here's where you're lucky.

The same program that helps insure prosperity is also the best possible way to get yourself in shape to take another depression if one does come. So what? *You're right both ways*—if you save your money. *You lose both ways*—if you splurge right now.

Think it over, fella. Then get in there and fight. Read—and observe—the four rules to head off inflation. The war isn't over yet. And the war against *inflation* isn't over yet—by a long shot. Remember World War I? The cost of living rose twice as fast *after* the war as it did during the war itself.

4 THINGS TO DO to keep prices down and help avoid another depression

1. Buy only what you really need.

2. When you buy, pay no more than ceiling prices. Pay your ration points in full.

3. Keep your *own* prices down. Don't take advantage of war conditions to ask more for your labor, your services, or the goods you sell.

4. *Save.* Buy and hold all the War Bonds you can afford—to help pay for the war and insure your future. Keep up your insurance.

A United States War message prepared by the War Advertising Council; approved by the Office of War Information; and contributed by this magazine in cooperation with the Magazine Publishers of America.

This Vibration Nonsense

Vague talk and loose thinking should not be used by Spiritualists. They should know better than to infer "THEIR spirit operators or collaborators are on a higher plane of vibration."

Schroedenger, Fisk, Einstein and Crookes

By RICHARD WILSON

Many times have I been to reputable Spiritualist Churches and heard speakers and mediums talk vaguely of vibrations. A common remark is *"The spirits are on a higher plane of vibration."*

What meaning the perpetrators wish to attach to this I do not know; I often doubt whether they know either. Anyway, whatever their intended meaning, it cannot be properly conveyed by the hopeless mixture of terms involved in that sentence.

This type of remark has unfortunately became general in our churches and I have heard it made by people who ought to know better. It is a type of remark that is detrimental to our movement and repels many inquiries.

Crookes' Theory

This vague talk is, moreover, accompanied by much loose thinking. It all started, I suppose, with the Presidential Address given by *Sir William Crookes* to the Society for Psychical Research in 1897. He then put forward the tentative hypothesis that wave motion, probably of the same nature as light, might be involved in the problem of telepathy.

There are objections to this theory which Sir William was the first to point out, but it was put forward as a suggestion for further consideration and scientific investigation.

Since then, Spiritualists have got hold of the theory, and, ignoring the objections to it, have enlarged it; they have then popularized it, and many have accepted it as scientifically established fact or as divine revelation.

Fisk's Experiments

Other psychic researchers have considered the objections insuperable, and cannot envisage a physical means of communication between two minds; which is understandable if we think that a mind is definitely non-physical.

Whatever we may consider the merits or otherwise of the theory, we must realize that it is still only tentative; we must remember that it has, as yet, no experimental backing.

A similar theory, recently propounded by *Sir Ernest Fisk*, Chairman of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd., has received much attention in the press. He suggested that we may, some day, be able to hold Radio communication with the dead; this would mean that no medium was necessary.

HE STARTED IT

Psychic Observer

SIR WILLIAM CROOKES
June 17th, 1832
April 4th, 1919

This idea seems to me to be rather far fetched, and it is open to the same objection as that of *Sir William Crookes*—the difficulty of envisaging physical effects being produced directly by discarnate beings. We must be guarded in our references to this theory also.

"Sine Wave Motion"

It might be interesting to consider a few of the properties of vibrations. I will confine my comments to *Simple Harmonic Motion* (or Sine Wave Motion), which is the most common kind. This is the type of motion we see in a clock pendulum, or in the waves on the surface of water when a stone has been dropped in.

It arises as the mathematical solution of a simple type of differential equation — viz., a linear equation of the second order with constant coefficients. It seems logical, therefore, to consider it in conjunction with the other type of solution to this kind of differential equation. This is the exponential function.

Frequency of Vibration

The two types of function, the sine wave and the exponential, are related to each other by that curious quantity *i*, or the square root of minus one. They each have two fundamental constants. One is the amplitude or intensity; the other is, in the case of the sine wave, the frequency of vibration, and, in the case of the exponential, the decay factor which measures the rate of decay of the function.

A sine wave with an *"imaginary"* frequency is an exponential, and an exponential with an *"imaginary"* decay factor is a sine wave. (I am using the term *"imaginary"* in its mathematical sense to denote multiplication by *i*.) They are often occurring together.

Einstein's Relativity

When considering oscillatory circuits in Radio, in one case the solution is a pure exponential, in another it is a combination of an exponential and a sine way, and in another, the case which is of most practical use, the solution is a pure sine wave.

In wave mechanics, *Schroedinger's Equation* has an exponential solution outside certain limits, and a sine wave solution inside.

Einstein's work on relativity makes a comparison between the two classes of function even more interesting. His work tends to show that our conception of time is fundamentally different from our conception of length in a rather interesting way. By an ingenious piece of mathematics he shows the two are related by this peculiar quantity *i*.

Spirit Inhabitants

If our conception of time were *"imaginary,"* then the places taken by sine waves and exponentials would be interchanged. Some discarnate spirits, and a few incarnate ones too, have suggested that our conception of time is all wrong, and that, if it were correct, we would be able to understand psychic phenomena more easily, and be more in rapport with the spirit world.

I will here enter the realm of wild speculation and put forward a very tentative suggestion — so tentative that I cannot even call it a hypothesis—that the inhabitants of the spirit world have this imaginary time sense.

This would enable them to view our future events in rather a different way from us, and they might therefore be able to make some predictions better than we can.

The Real Menace

All phenomena which they observed would seem entirely different, since time would assume, as *Einstein* shows, the place of a fourth dimension on a similar footing to the three which we are accustomed to observe.

It would then be incorrect to say that the spirits used higher frequencies, for our frequency would correspond to their decay factor and vice versa.

I know that this suggestion is open to graver objections than *Sir William Crookes'* theory. I make it notwithstanding these objections, not so much to indicate a line of possible thought and investigation, but as an attempt to show how vague and complicated any application of the theory of vibrations to psychic phenomena may easily become.

I must return to the plea made in the second paragraph. Consider all these theories, hypotheses and suggestions with due reserve. If you do not understand them it is a serious menace to our movement to talk about them as if you do.

Remember that there are alternative psychological explanations; and above all, do not in view of this article talk vaguely about exponentials—or else someone will soon be writing an article entitled *"This Exponential Nonsense."*

"Two Worlds"

OKLAHOMA MEDIUM

Psychic Observer

MARIE HUTCHERSON, noted Direct-Voice and Materialization Medium; 5940 Sandspring Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

See Psychic Observer, January 10th edition, for complete account of her extraordinary mediumship. The article was written by Thoro Harris, Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

DAVIS

(Continued from Page 9, Col. 5)

The healing by *Emile Coue* by auto-suggestion is directed exclusively to the mind or soul and not to the body. And the great reception the newspapers gave him, seems to indicate that many American people are prepared to receive new light on the cause and cure of disease.

But the healing method of *Coue*, like that of all other systems of mental and spiritual healing, is quite inadequate for general application. Mental healing indiscriminately applied, as it is now, to all kinds of disease and to all classes of minds, does more harm than good, although it makes some cures.

It makes promises that can never be fulfilled, and instils hopes that can never be realized, and causes disappointment and sorrow in the lives of many unfortunates whose lives are already full of misery.

Obey Laws of Health

Don't commence to lie to yourself by saying, day by day in every way I'm getting better and better, when you know that you're not; don't say that you're not sick, when you know that you are; don't sit in a public meeting and repeat, moment by moment I'm getting healthier, wealthier, happier, and younger, when you know that you're not.

Don't make a monkey of yourself or encourage religious and psychological quacks. You won't be healthy unless you obey the laws of health; and you won't be wealthy unless you work for it; and, in any case, you'll be getting older and older moment by moment.

And though you pay twenty-five dollars for a first-class lesson on, How to attain physical youth and immortality, the undertaker is sure to get you just the same.

I do not deny that there is a legitimate field for mental or spiritual healing, but it is a limited and special field and not a general one. Indeed, to apply one remedy for innumerable ailments is not only stupid but criminal.

Incorrigible Optimists

Some practitioners attempt to cure everybody by prayer; they expect God to perform a miracle every time they cure a patient. But God works only through universal law, and their cures need a more rational explanation.

The world is full of disease and misery and the millenium of health and happiness will not soon come unless everybody works for it in real earnest.

The incorrigible optimist, who goes blatherskiting through the country, is a public nuisance: it is well to look on the bright side and to be hopeful, but optimism should be based on some real condition.

Go into the hospitals and asylums and take a look around; read the vital statistics which deal with disease and death and get acquainted a little with the world in which you live.

"Reason"

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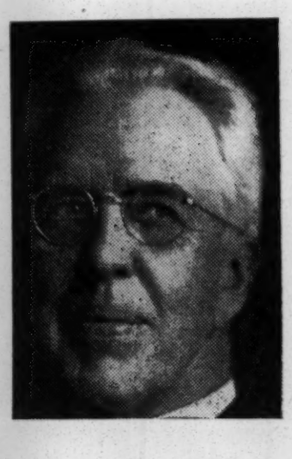

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